

# Avian Influenza (bird flu)

A highly infectious virus that infects domestic poultry, such as chickens, turkeys, quail, and pheasants, and wild birds such as geese and ducks.



## 6 ways to protect your birds

### 1 Keep your distance

*Restrict access to your property and keep your birds away from other birds.*

### 2 Keep it clean

*Wash your hands thoroughly before and after working with your birds. Clean and disinfect equipment.*

### 3 Don't haul disease home

*Buy birds from reputable sources and keep new birds separated for at least 30 days.*

### 4 Don't borrow disease

*Do not share equipment or supplies with neighbors or other bird owners. If you must borrow, disinfect it first.*

### 5 Know the warning signs

*Early detection can help prevent the spread of the disease. Check your birds frequently. If you find a sick or dead bird, don't touch it.*

### 6 Report sick birds

*Don't wait. If your birds are sick or dying, call your veterinarian or notify DATCP at 1-800-572-8981.*

Bird flu spreads quickly by direct bird-to-bird contact. Viruses can be carried by manure, tools, equipment, vehicles, egg flats, crates, clothing and shoes. Migratory waterfowl can also carry the disease.

## What are the signs of bird flu?

- Lack of energy or appetite
- Decreased egg production and/or soft-shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles and hocks
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs
- Runny nose, coughing, sneezing
- Stumbling or falling down
- Diarrhea
- Sudden death without any clinical signs

**If you find a sick or dead bird, don't touch it, report it.**



**Domestic birds:** WI DATCP Division of Animal Health—  
**1-800-572-8981**

**Wild birds:** WI Department of Natural Resources  
**Contact nearest DNR office.**



Snap this code from your  
smartphone  
for more info

## Need more information?

[datcp.wi.gov/Animals/Animal\\_Diseases/Avian\\_Influenza](http://datcp.wi.gov/Animals/Animal_Diseases/Avian_Influenza)